

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
FEBRUARY 22, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Ashworth, Furlong, Sutphen, Block
Staff: Jones, Galetta

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairperson Sutphen at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 8, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 8, 2012

Motion made by Ashworth, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously.

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. New London Road, Water Main Extension, Fishtown Brook Bridge

Ray Valentini from City of Groton Utilities reviewed the application and the location of the project with the Agency. After conducting initial borings it was originally thought the project could proceed as originally permitted with the water line placed under Fishtown Brook and the Route 1 pavement. Subsequently, the State of Connecticut determined that the location was not suitable because of a potential for undermining the Fishtown Brook Bridge. The bridge in question is a vintage 1940 structure. The foundation goes down approximately 10' and sits on ledge. Moving the ledge might crack the bridge so the State has proposed an alternate site for the water main extension. The State prefers attaching the line to the south side of the bridge, above the brook. There will be some disturbance to the wetlands. Approximately 3 cubic yards will be excavated on either side of the bridge to construct concrete supports for the new water line. The area will be re-graded and reseeded. The Agency scheduled a site walk and set a time for March 7th at 12:00 p.m.

V. PENDING APPLICATIONS

1. Precision Motors Modification, 2400 Gold Star Highway

Staff noted that the revised plans have not yet been received. Staff requested that the application be tabled until the next meeting. The Agency will conduct a site walk on March 7th at 12:30 p.m.

2. Poquonnock Road Sidewalk

The Town of Groton is the applicant for this permit application. Town Engineer Greg Hanover reviewed the location map with the Commission. They are proposing a 210' x 200' (1000 sq. ft.) sidewalk along the west side of Poquonnock Road. The sidewalk will link two existing sidewalks to make one that will run essentially from the City of Groton all the way to Long Hill Road. It will be a 5' wide bituminous sidewalk

along the west edge of Poquonnock Road at Trail's Corner opposite Johl Drive. The sidewalk will be curbed and then it will run flush with road. There will be some grading along the sidewalk but no filling of wetlands. Hanover noted that the existing leak-off will be removed and that an existing gas line makes it impossible to install a new catch basin. Therefore drainage will continue to be by sheet flow. Furlong questioned whether pervious paving might work better in this situation. Hanover stated that he did consider this but felt it would act more like a curtain drain with water sitting on top rather than penetrating below. The area will be graded with loam and seeded. Staff stated that their opinion is the Town would not mow the seeded area.

MOTION: To approve the Poquonnock Road Sidewalk application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with the project.
2. There are no future regulated activities made inevitable by this permit.

This permit is subject to the four standard conditions.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Ashworth, so voted unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Tarasevich Mobile Home Park, 30 Tower Avenue, Show Cause Hearing

Attorney Rob Avena and soil scientist Don Fortunato attended the hearing. Fortunato conducted a site walk to make observations and give a report. The report narrative was forwarded to the Agency without photographs. Fortunato recommends adding topsoil, seed mix and hay but not removal of the rocks. He feels the area will be more stabilized with the rocks in place than if they were removed. The area is in a flood way and is well within the AE flood zone. Zoning Regulations clearly do not allow any fill in a flood way. Staff would like to review the situation with the State Flood Insurance Program Coordinator before the Agency makes a decision. She recommended continuing the hearing to the second meeting in March.

MOTION: To table the show cause hearing until March 28.

Motion made by Ashworth, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Berg Property, 0 Azalea Drive, Jurisdictional Ruling

Staff noted that in 1988 the Planning Commission approved an expanded nursery at this location however a wetlands permit was not required at that time. Zoning regulations required 5 acres of land which the applicant owned. Over time the land has been split and developed and Berg no longer owns 5 acres.

A zoning enforcement letter was issued in March 2011 because the lot no longer meets the requirement for a nursery and the land is being used to store contractor's

materials and equipment without property approvals. The letter requires the discontinuation of the unpermitted use and restoration.

In order to assess the state of the filled bank, branches and brush must be removed. Equipment will sit on gravel on the top of the slope and reach over the side. Then the bank will be surveyed and compared to an approved site plan to determine compliance and whether or not wetlands have been filled. Based on the survey a restoration plan will be submitted. The Commission must determine if it will require a permit for the removal of the fill.

MOTION: To find that the proposed restoration plan for 0 Azalea Drive dated January 6, 2012 does not require a wetlands permit.

Motion made by Block, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously.

2. Report of Chair – None
3. Report of Staff

Staff reported that the building official issued an order to take down the old Mason's Lodge building at Burnetts Corners. The building is beyond repair and has become a public hazard. The order was forwarded to the superior court and a judge has agreed with the building official's decision. The Town was given the authority to take down the building. There is an appeal period of 4 months after which the Town could take action. The building sits directly on a stream and its demolition will require a wetlands permit. The Town can pull the structure down from the road but will then need to backfill the foundation. It sits so close to the road that the foundation essentially supports the road.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Lynda Galetta
Office Assistant II